

2010 U.S. YOUTH GO CHAMPIONSHIP (USYGC)

The AGA is pleased to announce the opening of the 2010 USYGC national competition season. Our goal for this year is to attract more players from among American youth to compete, renew friendships, and select the United States representatives for the 2010 World Youth Go Championships (WYGC), which is sponsored by the Ing Foundaton. The USYGC is organized into seven qualifier events across the country leading to the national championship Finals. There will also be an online qualifier, for youth who are not able to travel to a qualifier location. The Finals winners in each age division will represent the AGA at the next WYGC. This year we will also be selecting national Single Digit Kyu (SDK) and Double Digit Kyu Champions. These youth will not travel to the WYGC, but will receive a trophy and be recognized as the best youth players in their divisions. There will be prizes and recognition in multiple skill ranges, so many youth will be winners no matter what.

Participation Guidelines

USYGC events are open to all US residents meeting the age requirements set by the WYGC. Finalists must also be US Citizens in order to compete in the finals championship tournament, but residents may compete and win at any qualifier without moving on to the finals.

WYGC Age Requirements

Players must meet the age criteria by the calendar set by the WYGC organizers. There are two age groups: under 12 (junior) and 12 through 17 inclusive (senior). The cutoff date for each group is the day that the World Youth Go Championship begins. The tentative date for the 2010 WYGC is August 1, 2010. To be eligible to compete in the senior division of the 2010 USYGC, a player must be 17 or younger on that date. To be eligible for the junior division in 2010, a player must be 11 or younger on the day the WYGC begins.

Eligibility Requirements for USYGC Finalists

1. US citizens by April 30, 2010.
2. Competition in the USYGC system, at either a physical or online qualifier.
3. AGA membership at the beginning of a player's first qualifier tournament, which must be maintained throughout the entire period of the USYGC tournament and WYGC event.
4. Physical residence in the United States, its territories or possessions, for at least six of the twelve calendar months prior to April 30, 2010. For AGA members with families assigned to U.S. military duty overseas, time overseas will be counted as residence in the United States. Qualifier winners in each age group may be required to provide written proof of residency.

Any youth who is the US Representative for four consecutive years, including cross-over years from junior to senior divisions, must skip one year before resuming competition in the WYGC.

Event Guidelines

Qualifier Events

1. All qualifier events must be scheduled between January 15 and May 9th. Actual dates are at the discretion of the hosting chapters but need to be coordinated with the USYGC Coordinator.
2. There will be eight (8) qualifier events with a separate competition for each age division. One of these will be an online event. There is no limit to the number of participants in each qualifier

event or division.

3. The location of qualifier events may change from year to year.
4. The qualifier event involves play over one or two consecutive days and may be stand-alone or in addition to an AGA event being held by the Chapter.
5. All qualifier events will use AGA rules.
6. All games in the competition for the qualifier winner must be played without handicaps, and should be AGA-rated. Komi is 7.5 points. Handicaps are allowed in consolation rounds or in other games that will have no bearing on the winner.
7. The tournament format may vary between qualifiers depending on the number of players and their ratings in each age division. Formats may include Round Robin, Swiss McMahon, elimination rounds and a final round, or any other established and accepted format over both days. To the fullest extent possible, tournament formats should allow players to play as many different players as possible within their age groups.
8. Rules of Play:
 - a) Time – 60 minutes main time per player; overtime 5 periods of 30 seconds.
 - b) Clocks – required; clock type at the discretion of event organizer.
 - c) Tournament results must produce clear 1st and 2nd place winners.
 - d) Ties will be broken by playoff or by using standard AGA tiebreaks (in order: SOS, SODOS, the result of face-to-face result (if any), random draw)
 - e) In the event of disputes, the decision of the Tournament Director at the event is final.
9. For no-shows by the time the first round begins, the Tournament Director will adjust the pairings as appropriate.
10. Players pay their travel and accommodation to the qualifier events.
11. Players may participate in up to two different qualifiers per year, but only if they do not win the first qualifier in which they play.
12. Youth players who are not citizens may compete in the event. If a non-citizen wins a qualifier, they are entitled to all prizes and trophies, but must cede their slot at the finals to the next highest placing youth who is eligible.

Final Event

1. The U.S. Youth Go Championship will be held each year by the first weekend in June
2. The Final Event will be held June 5th and 6th, online at KGS.
3. The 8 qualifier winners will advance to the finals. In addition, the next eight highest-rated players that competed in any qualifier event will be seeded into the finals, to create a field of 16 players in each division. Seeding will be determined by AGA Youth ranks from the most current ratings update on May 9th. The selection will be made by the AGA Youth Coordinator. Seeded youth must meet all other eligibility criteria, and must have competed in one of the USYGC Qualifiers.
4. The final event is defined as follows:
 - a) Format – 4 round Swiss over two days. Games are played using AGA rules.
 - b) Time – 90 minutes main time per player; overtime 5 periods of 30 seconds.
 - c) There will be a maximum of 16 players in each age division.
 - d) For no shows by the time the first round begins, the Tournament Director will adjust the pairings as appropriate.
 - e) Ties will be broken by playoff or by using standard AGA tiebreaks (in order: SOS, SODOS, the result of face-to-face result (if any), random draw)

5. In the event less than 16 finalists confirm their attendance at the finals, the following rules are to be used to fill any vacancies:
 - a. In the event that the 1st place winner in a Qualifier is unable to attend the Finals, the 2nd place runner-up will be invited to attend.
 - b. If both 1st and 2nd place finishers from a qualifier are unable to attend or if fewer than eight qualifiers take place, then the USYGC Coordinator is authorized to make a discretionary selection from among all other participants in the national collection of Qualifiers using AGA ratings and over-all playing record in the qualifiers.

Secondary Championships

There will be an additional online competition to determine the National Single Digit Kyu (SDK) Champions and the National Double Digit Kyu (DDK) Champions. The strongest players in these categories, from each qualifying event, will compete for the national title. Qualifier directors should submit the names and ranks of these youth to usygc@usgo.org. Separate entries may be made for each age bracket. The SDK and DDK championships will be run by the American Go Honor Society (AGHS) and will be on June 5th and 6th. The winners will receive trophies, and prizes will be awarded in the following brackets: 1-4 kyu, 5-9 kyu, 10-15 kyu, 16-20 kyu, 21-25 kyu, 26 and up kyu.

AGA Support

USYGC Coordinator –Robert Barber (usygc@usgo.org) will manage the program and is the AGA’s first point of contact for anyone with questions or interest on the program. Qualifier Tournament Directors – These volunteers will be approved by the AGA and announced with the hosting chapters to run the qualifier events. The AGA will call for volunteers annually. Interested chapters should register their willingness to host a qualifier. The AGA will make the final decision on the venues based on a variety of factors including but not limited to the alternatives available, proximity to already approved qualifier venues, prior experience in hosting major tournaments, resources available locally to manage the tournament, etc.

The AGA will provide certificates for all players who compete in the qualifiers.

Players cover their own costs to the qualifier events. Meals are not included at any event unless the host chapters provide them. Parents and chaperons pay their way to all events.

Prizes

Qualifiers

The AGA will provide \$125 per qualifier location, to be used for prizes locally. Trophies are recommended, and may be ordered from the AGA Youth Coordinator (youth@usgo.org).

First place winners at each qualifier event are entitled to receive a partial scholarship for an AGA summer US Go Camps. The \$400 scholarship will be provided by the American Go Foundation (AGF). The scholarship can be applied to any AGA-supported Go Camp in the calendar year it is won. The scholarship funds will be provided directly to the Camp Directors to defray the costs of the youth attending. If the winners are unable to use the scholarship, it may be awarded to any other youth who completed a qualifier event, at the discretion of the AGF Camp Committee, and in conjunction with the

tournament directors. Scholarship funds are not transferable to another year or another player by any winners.

Finals

1. All players in the USYGC Finals receive certificates for participating.
2. The winner of the USYGC Final in each age division will receive a trip to the World Youth Go Championship later that year with travel expenses paid by the sponsor. The AGA will assist in coordinating logistics with the sponsor after the final event.
3. Visa and passport requirements are the responsibility of the participants. A visa should be requested immediately upon winning the finals, contact youth@usgo.org for more information on this process. Winners must make their own travel arrangements, and will be reimbursed by the Ing Foundation.
4. 1-3rd places in each division will receive a trophy.
5. The best performing player in the 1-4 dan range will also receive a trophy and a prize.

Additional Information for Tournament Directors

1. Each Qualifier Tournament Director (TD) is to submit a tournament plan to the USYGC Coordinator prior to the start of their Qualifier. The plan needs to include date, venue and format information such as the schedule of the games, number of participants anticipated for formatting purposes and the anticipated tournament format. Prizes and refreshments information is optional but recommended.
2. Pre-registration for qualifier events is very strongly recommended. This allows Qualifier TDs to make formatting choices earlier and confirm pairings in advance. Late entries and last minute arrivals may be excluded from the event or deferred to the second round at the discretion of the Tournament Directors if including such players delays the start of the event or requires a material change in the tournament format. The decisions of the Qualifier TD are final.
3. Qualifier event fees are at the discretion of the hosting AGA chapter. There are no fees for playing in the finals. Any fees collected should be used to cover venue and equipment expenses, refreshments, local prizes, transportation, etc. Individual qualifier TDs decide the event format. Tournaments must produce a clear 1st place winner and 2nd place runner-up. This means that if the format cannot produce clear 1st and 2nd finishers in a given number of rounds, the TD must be prepared to play an additional round or use tiebreaks
4. Tournament results are to be submitted to the USYGC Coordinator no later than 48 hours after the Qualifier. These will be published in the E-Journal and on the AGA's website for the public to watch the progress of the players. The report to the Coordinator should also include photographs from the event.
5. Ratings reporting: Qualifier results should be submitted to the AGA Ratings Coordinator (ratings@usgo.org) no later than 48 hours after the Qualifier. This information should also be sent to the AGA Youth Coordinator (youth@usgo.org). Required data includes players' names, AGA ID numbers, pairings, results, color designations and any information on tie-breakers. For questions on reporting for ratings purposes, contact the AGA Ratings Coordinator at ratings@usgo.org. This document contains the full description of the program and guidelines. For any details not covered, please contact the USYGC Coordinator, Robert Barber at usygc@usgo.org.